Social Security Scheme on Pilot Basis

3777. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Social Security Scheme for unorganised workers has been launched in some Districts on pilot basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is proposed to be extended to more Districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Scheme was launched in January 2004 in 50 districts of the country on pilot basis. The scheme envisaged the benefit of coverage under Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Personal Accident Insurance cover and Old Age Pension.

(c) to (e) The scheme was not found viable due to some inherent shortcomings like no statutory backing, voluntary in nature and non-availability of employers' contribution. Therefore, it is not being extended to other districts.

Inadequate medical facilities in ESI Hospitals

3778. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees State Insurance Corporation has recently decided to set up a Committee to review the functioning of medical care under ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee, its composition and the time by when the Committee is likely to present its report;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints/suggestions regarding inadequate medical facilities available in the ESI hospitals in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A General Purposes Medical Care Sub-Committee has been constituted on 18.03.2005.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are to suggest improvement of the delivery/functioning of medical care in various States. The Committee has been constituted with 13 members, representing employers, employees, representatives of various States and members amongst the Governing Body of ESI Corporation. The Committee will submit its report periodically to the ESI Corporation.

(c) and (d) Delivery of medical care in ESI Hospitals in various States is generally satisfactory. However, a few complaints have been received regarding shortage of staff, non-availability of drugs and delay in reimbursement of medical bills of the beneficiaries including the State of Andhra Pradesh. To overcome these problems State Governments have been requested to rationalize the staff in such manner that all services are provided through the ESI Hospitals. Revolving fund for medical reimbursement in case of speciality/super-speciality and purchase of drugs & dressings have been established to tackle this problem.

Recommendations of Working Group on Minimum Wages

3779. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of recommendations from the Working Group of Minimum Wages;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Working Group; and

(c) whether Government are aware that minimum wages recommended by the Working Group are not being paid by the State Governments and if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Working Group set by the Central Advisory Board in 2002 had made following major recommendations:—

(i) Norms for fixation of minimum wages would be as under:

(a) The norms of 3 consumption units *i.e.* 2 adults plus 2 children for one earner.